

PRUNUS ROOTSTOCK NAMED 'ELTA'

BOTANICAL CLASSIFICATION

Prunus lannesiana

VARIETAL DENOMINATION

'Elta'

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present invention comprises a new and distinct cultivar of *Prunus lannesiana* used as a rootstock known by the varietal name 'Elta'. The new variety was discovered in the Krasnodar region of Russia around 1987. The new variety is the result of free pollination of a *Prunus lannesiana* plant (female parent). The purpose of breeding 'Elta' was to provide a productive clonal rootstock for cherry varieties. The new variety has been trial and field tested and has been found to retain its distinctive characteristics and remain true to type through successive propagations. The following characteristics distinguish 'Elta' from other varieties known to the breeder:

1. The scion of 'Elta' is reddish-brown with spots of grey;
2. 'Elta' has big stipules;
3. 'Elta' is easy to propagate via green cuttings; and
4. 'Elta' has pink flowers in bunches.

DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The accompanying photographic drawings illustrate the new variety, with the color being as nearly true as is possible with color illustrations of this type:

Fig. 1 shows a close-up view of the flowers of the new variety;

Fig. 2 shows the new variety grown to a flowering plant; and

Fig. 3 illustrates the roots and branches of the new variety.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PLANT

The following detailed description sets forth the characteristics of the new cultivar. The data which defines these characteristics were collected by asexual reproductions via green cuttings carried out in the Krasnodar Region of Russia. The color readings were taken in natural daylight.

TREE

Use: Rootstock.
Fruit bearing: High productivity.
Size (generally): Medium.
Form: Rounded.

Trunk:

Size: Medium.
Bark color: Dark grey.

Branches:

Surface texture: Smooth.
Bark color: Light grey with a pink strip.
New growth color: Pink with light grey spots.
Mature growth color: Grey.
Internode length: 2.3 – 3.0 cm.
Lenticel shape: Round.
Lenticel number: Many.
Bud shape: Conical.
Bud size: 6 mm.

Leaves:

Overall size: Large.
Length: 15 cm.
Width: 6 cm.
Surface texture: Wrinkled.
Form: Broad; elliptic.
Color:
 Lower surface: Light grey.
 Upper surface: Green.

Mid-vein:

Size: Medium.
Color: Light pink.

Petiole:

Length: 2.5 cm.
Thickness: 1.0 – 1.5 mm.
Color: Pink.

Leaf glands: Absent.

Stipules:

Shape: Round.

Size: Up to 2.0 cm.

Color: Green.

Flowers:

Size: Large; Approximately 30.0 – 35.0 mm.

Color: Light pink.

Number: 4 – 5 per inflorescence.

Fragrance: None.

Sexual characteristics: The pistil is 1.5 cm. long. The stamen is below the pistil.

Fruit:

Size: Small.

Axial diameter (average): 0.8 cm.

Axial diameter transverse in the suture plane: 0.7 cm.

Axial diameter transverse and at a right angle to the suture plane: 0.8 cm.

Shape: Symmetric.

Stem cavity:

Shape: Round.

Depth: Small.

Breadth: Narrow.

Base shape: Round.

Apex shape: Round.

Skin:

Thickness: Thin.

Texture: Tender.

Color: Black-violet.

Flesh:

Texture: Tender.

Juice: Dark red.

Aroma: Absent.

Flavor: Bitter.

Use: Not recommended for eating.

SOIL ADAPTATION AND TOLERANCE

Cholorosis: Tolerant.

Wet soil: Resilient.

MULTIPLICATION ABILITY

Layering: Weak propagation.

Hardwood cuttings: Resistant to no propagation.

Softwood cuttings: Great propagation.

PATHOGEN RESISTANCE

Fungal disease: Tolerant.

Insects: Not resistant.

Mites: Weak resistance.

Viruses: Tolerant.

Diseases: Tolerant to Coccomyces and Verticillium.

PERFORMANCE AS A ROOTSTOCK WHEN GRAFTED

Root sprouts (suckering): Very good.

Anchorage: Very good.

Compatibility: Compatible with all varieties of sweet cherry known to the breeder.

Vigor: Medium.